

June 22, 1978

Status Report on Kent County Landfill in  
Plainfield Township, Kent County, Michigan

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US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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The Kent County Landfill has been used as a disposal site for solid wastes which resulted from a clean-up of the bankrupt Story Chemical Company in Muskegon, Michigan. The clean-up was supervised by Mr. Jim Miller of Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Water Quality Section.

In a June 12, 1978 letter to Mr. Jeff Dauphin of the West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Mr. Miller states that no hazardous or toxic wastes were hauled to the Kent County Landfill. Drums containing liquids were systematically sampled and categorized. All liquids were incinerated. Solids and contaminated soils were also sampled and classified. These materials, determined to be non-hazardous, were disposed at the Kent County Landfill.

An MDNR permit was issued in May 1977, for certain trenches with numerous stipulations, many of which have been ignored. One of those was a dewatering system to provide a seven foot clearance between the base of the trenches and the underlying groundwater. According to Dr. B.P. Shah, Supervisor of Environmental Geology Section Resource Recovery Division, MDNR, the dewatering system was improperly installed. Water has been diverted to the leachate collection system stilling basin. This addition of water, plus the discovery of holes in the polyvinyl chloride (PVC) liner, is resulting in the stilling basin being pumped at 18,000 gallons per day. The leachate is being discharged to a wastewater treatment facility via sewer. Dr. Shah has indicated that a verbal agreement has been reached between him and the site engineer on the need for certification on the construction of the leachate collection and dewatering systems.

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RECOMMENDATION: No U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) action is warranted at this time. The MDNR currently has a three-person surveillance team at the site. This team is providing technical assistance for the emplacement of additional clay and a PVC liner, and is conducting a hydrogeologic evaluation. The MDNR will advise us on the progress at the site.

Site. 6/22/78

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